

# JEFFERSON COUNTY INVESTMENT POLICY

## INTRODUCTION

The timely deposit and investment of public funds is an important and integral part of any cash management program. In order to maximize cash available for investments, all County departments shall remit funds at least weekly to the County Treasurer's Office.

Acceptance and approval of this statement is intended for the use and guidance of the designated official with investment authority.

This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Finance Committee, and recommendations to amend the existing ordinance shall be presented to the County Board for its consideration.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The purpose of this investment policy is to establish guidelines for investments which are broad enough to allow the investment officer to function properly within the parameters of responsibility and authority. It is also intended to be specific enough to establish a prudent set of basic procedures to assure that investment assets are adequately safeguarded. It assures that the fundamental principle concerning any investment program involving public moneys has four basic ingredients: legality, safety, liquidity & yield.

## OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CASH MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT

Effective cash management involves controlling cash from the time it is received until it is disbursed. It requires the availability of accurate information on a timely basis. One person shall be delegated the day to day responsibility for the overall financial operation to determine cash availability and needs.

1) **AUTHORITY.** Pursuant to S59.62(1) Wis. Stats., County Board authority to invest and re-invest money of the County, to sell or exchange securities so purchased and to provide for the safekeeping of such securities is delegated to the County Treasurer, as the County's Investment Officer. In the absence or illness of the County Treasurer this authority shall be delegated to the Deputy Treasurer.

2) **INVESTMENT.** The County Treasurer may purchase securities that are permissible investments from money in his/her custody, which is not required for the immediate needs of the County, as he/she deems wise and expedient. The investment activity of Wisconsin public funds is governed by Section 66.0603(1m) and other sections of the Wisconsin Statutes as follows:

“A county, city, village, town, school district, drainage district, technical college district or other governing board other than a local professional football stadium district board created under subch. IV of ch. 229, may invest any of its funds . . .” in accordance with Section 66.0603(1m).

The Finance Committee shall consult quarterly with the County Treasurer regarding such investments. The Treasurer shall provide the Committee with a quarterly detailed list of all the investment portfolio holdings.

The County Treasurer shall communicate with financial institutions and/or investment advisors and avail himself/herself of other financial information on current or pending market conditions in making his/her decision on rates and maturities as well as the securities to be purchased. In making all investment decisions, the County Treasurer shall endeavor to obtain the highest rate of interest offered unless he/she deems such offer to be contrary to the overall investment objectives of the County.

3) **REDEMPTION.** The County Treasurer shall periodically redeem the securities in which County money has been invested pursuant to (2) so that the proceeds may be applied to the purpose for which the original purchase money was designated or placed in the County Treasury.

4) **DEPOSITS.** The Citizens Bank and Premier Bank located in the City of Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, shall be the working banks for Jefferson County. The State of Wisconsin Local Government Investment Pool shall be the depository for a minimum of \$10M of the County general funds for effective cash management, liquidity and higher interest returns. This minimum balance shall not include other County funds such as Clerk of Courts investments, remaining estate proceeds or remaining bond proceeds.

5) **INVESTMENT ADVISORS.** The County Treasurer may utilize investment advisors/brokers as approved by the Finance Committee.

6) **SAFEKEEPING.** All securities shall be held in the name of the County and held in trust by either an independent broker/dealer or in an off-premises safety deposit box.

#### ACCOUNTS AND RECORDS

It shall be the responsibility of the designated Investment Officer in consultation with the Finance Committee to establish sufficient records and accounts to:

- \* detail each investment as to purchase date, cost, maturity date, yield and market value.
- \* provide any necessary internal controls.
- \* any other records that may be required to accurately reflect all investment transactions.

#### COLLATERALIZATION OF FUNDS

With the passage of Wisconsin Act 25, effective August 1, 1985, there is no longer the overall guarantee of public funds by the State. In effect, Act 25 abolished the state deposit guarantee fund. It will continue to pledge general purpose revenues under Wis. Stats., 20.144 (1)(a), for the payment of losses of public deposits until the balance of the appropriation is exhausted. However, no payment for a loss in excess of \$400,000.00 for any one public depositor in any individual public depository may be made. F.D.I.C. insures deposits up to \$100,000.00, making a public depositor protected for a total of \$500,000.00 for deposits in any one institution.

Chapter 34.07 as amended provides that a surety bond or other security may be required of a given public depository for any public deposit that exceeds the \$400,000.00 amount guaranteed by the State. Jefferson County will require this collateral for any deposit that exceeds the \$500,000.00 guaranteed by the State and the F.D.I.C.

Certificates of Deposits or other investments exceeding \$500,000.00 shall be fully secured by obligations of the United State Government or its agencies. Such securities shall be delivered to the County or held by an independent third party chosen by the County. Substitution of collateral by the independent third party shall only be allowed with the written approval of the County's Investment Officer. The market value of the collateral shall at all times equal or exceed the principal amount of the certificate of deposit. Value of the collateral shall be monitored and market value shall near the bid or closing price of the security as quoted in the Wall Street Journal or other recognized pricing source. The investing officer shall be authorized to sign for agreements with the Custodial Bank or the receipt for any pledged securities.

Responsibility for the administration of the foregoing rests with the County Treasurer.

#### INVESTMENT RELATED RISKS

1. Custodial credit risk for deposits
  - a. Definition: Risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the County will not be able to recover deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.
  - b. Related Policy: For those institutions which the County holds deposits and investments:
    - i. Ensure that security interest in collateral pledged to secure deposits and investments are enforceable against the receiver of a failed financial institution via:
      1. Agreement is in writing
      2. Agreement was approved by the board of directors of the depository or its loan committee, and
      3. Agreement has been continuously from the time of execution an official record of the depository institution.
    - ii. All pledged collateral shall be held at an independent third party institution, and evidenced by a written agreement in an effort to satisfy the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) requirement for control.
2. Custodial credit risk
  - a. Definition: Risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, the County will not be able to recover the value of investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.
  - b. Related Policy: Accomplished through same policy as Custodial Credit Risk for Deposits as above.
3. Credit risk
  - a. Definition: Risk that an issuer or other counterpart to an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the County. [am. 05-12-09, Res. 2009-24]
  - b. Related policy: Investments shall be as permitted by Wisconsin Statute §66.0603.

[am. 05-12-09, Res. 2009-24]

- c. In the event a corporate security purchased under the authority of Wisconsin Statute §66.0603(1m)(4) subsequently drops below highest or second highest rating categories as defined by a nationally recognized rating agency, the Investment Officer shall not purchase any additional securities issued by that corporation until such time as their rating returns to the highest or second highest rating. [am. 05-12-09, Res. 2009-24]
4. Concentration of credit risk
  - a. Definition: Risk of loss attributed to the County investment in a single issuer.
  - b. Related Policy: The County Investment Officer shall diversify the investment portfolio within the allowed securities as needed with investment return, liquidity, and immediate cash flow needs kept in mind. The only limit related to concentration of securities with a single issuer shall be that no more than five percent (5%) of the investment portfolio shall be in commercial paper.
5. Interest rate risk for investments
  - a. Definition: Risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment.
  - b. Related Policy: The County shall not have investments with maturities longer than 36 months unless specifically recommended by the Investment Officer and approved by the Finance Committee.

#### REPORTS

The County Treasurer, as Investment Officer shall provide the full County Board a monthly written report on the general condition of the County's cash and investments.

The Investment Advisor shall provide a twelve month (August 1 – July 31) report to the Finance Committee on the County's investment activity for the reporting period and recommendations for improvement to the County's investment strategy for the next reporting period.

Adopted October 23, 2007, Resolution No. 2007-61

Am. 05-12-09, Res. 2009-24